

U.S. ARMY
MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
Fort Benning, Georgia
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MEDIA ADVISORY: MCoE to limit installation access due to COVID-19 threat

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FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning continues to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while protecting the health and safety of our Soldiers, Families and Civilians at Fort Benning and our neighboring community.

To limit the spread of COVID-19, we have suspended the Trusted Traveler Program and limited installation access to those with military ID, common access cardholders, retiree ID and those who have an Automated Installation Entry (AIE) card.

People visiting trainees and permanent party residents, people who want to golf or use the post recreational activities and people who want to eat at one of our restaurants are prohibited from entering the installation.

There are some exceptions. Currently babysitters, nannies or au pairs, deliveries, commercial trucks, buses, VA clinic patrons, moving trucks and personal medical services can still access the installation; however, all visitors without military ID or an AIE must stop at a visitor control center.

We are taking proactive steps to remind our personnel to adhere to the guidance outlined by the Centers for Disease Control, the Defense Health Agency and the U.S. Army Public Health Center to help mitigate the spreading of COVID-19.

Following guidance issued by the Army Public Health Center called COVID-19 Health Protection Conditions, we have implemented and shared with the community the precautionary measures taken to protect the health of the force and maintain operational readiness.

These steps include frequent hand washing, avoiding close contact with sick individuals, covering coughs and sneezes, disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, staying home when feeling ill, and avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth.

Canceling all graduations and family days until further notice and postponing the Army competitions planned for April and May are part of the proactive steps we've put into effect. Prohibiting all visitors for Soldiers in training, implementing prudent social distancing techniques, expanded use of telework and leave flexibilities are preventive measure to mitigate the spread COVID-19. Distance between personnel during essential meetings follows CDC guidance.

Since the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 a pandemic March 11, the Department of Defense stopped all domestic travel for service members, DOD civilians, and families, including permanent changes of station and temporary duty from March 16 through May 11. This ban is in addition to the department's travel restrictions effective March 13.

We're using CDC-approved screening criteria for all personnel arriving here for training. This includes taking temperatures when recruits arrive at the reception battalion, asking about foreign travel and potential exposure to infected persons, and includes a medical screening for COVID-19-like symptoms.

We've established an area for personnel who require mandatory 14-day observation. Soldiers arriving for training from higher-risk areas could be placed under a 14-day restriction of movement to monitor their health and ensure they are clear of respiratory symptoms.

The Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning fully support the Army's efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 virus while providing trained and combat-ready Soldiers to defend our national security.

For the latest information on COVID-19, please visit www.benning.army.mil/COVID19

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